

Setting a New Course Hartford's Charter Revision Commission holds its first public hearing

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Long-awaited by many residents, this is the year when the city charter comes up for review by a 14-member commission of appointees charged with going over that lengthy document, line by line, and ultimately voting on what needs to change or be added and what should stay the same. It's a daunting, time-consuming process requiring much research and study, as well as input from the public to be considered. Last week, the commission held its first public hearing by ZOOM, and 10 city residents signed up to speak about their concerns, ideas, and hopes for what they'd like to see implemented or eliminated in what is arguably Hartford's most important road map for a well-functioning local government. Twelve of the commissioners were present: Arunan Arulampalam, Steve Bonafante, Raul DeJesus, Vicky Gallon-Clark, Kamora Herrington, Ken Kennedy, Kate Kowalshyn, Melvin Medina, Yadira Rivera, Bruce Rubenstein, Leon Smith, and Commission Chair James Woulfe (John Gale and Alexander Aponte were absent).

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Slowing it Down Update on the Wethersfield Avenue street calming project

BY JANICE CASTLE & DONNA SWARR

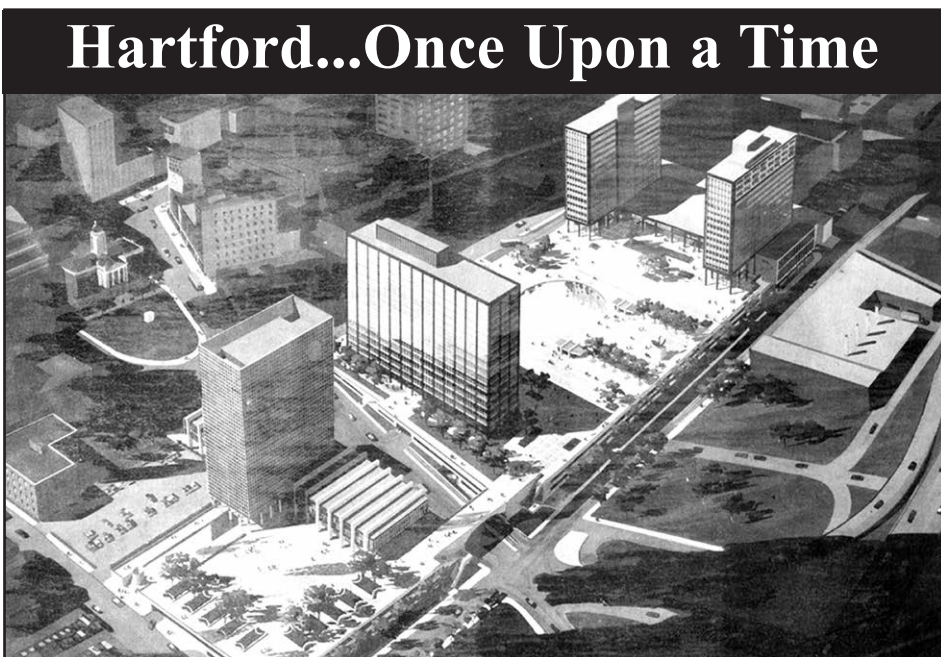
Living on or just off of Wethersfield Avenue last summer was a traumatic experience. Many divisions of DPW, the Development Services Complete Streets Task Force, the Colt Park Foundation, the Center for Latino Progress, and residents have teamed up to find solutions to the racing and erratic driving. In response to the community's request for street calming, Hartford's Department of Public Works has developed a "quick-build" plan that will go into effect from Elliott Street in the south to Wyllys Street in the north. The installation is expected to begin on June 1st. This plan will create a new traffic pattern and will require some adjustments in the way we get around. The impact will be as follows: The parking lane on the west side of the roadway will be moved so that the bicycle lane can be placed next to the curb, and the parking lane will serve as a buffer between bicyclists and moving traffic. A buffer area will be striped between the parking lane and the bike lane on the east side of the roadway. The bicycle lane will remain where it already is--next to the curb--and a buffer area will be painted between the travel lane

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State's Tallest Mural Grows in Hartford

Every picture tells a story – but most pictures aren't eight stories high! The tallest mural in Connecticut can now be seen by all on the (previously) blank wall at the corner of Pearl and Ann Uccello Streets in Downtown Hartford. Artist Corey Pane's latest work, "Let's Grow" depicts his friend Kailah King watering flowers. Pane's highly detailed murals now adorn several spots in Hartford and beyond. The project was co-sponsored by the Hartford Business Improvement District (BID), and CT Murals. (Hart photo)



We usually show Hartford as it once was, but this portrays Hartford as it never was. It's a design for Constitution Plaza that was apparently rejected as it bears little resemblance to what was actually built. The pedestrian bridge over State Street, for instance, was actually built further west. The famous Phoenix "Boat Building" was built in the area at lower left, whereas a large conventional building is shown here. (Photo courtesy of the late Joseph DeLorenzo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time

NEWS BRIEFS

Taste of Heaven June 5

Heaven Skate Park, located at the corner of Main and Chapel Streets, will host Taste of Heaven food festival on Saturday, June 5, from 11 am – 5 pm. There will be food trucks and vendors, live music performances, art displays and, of course, skateboarding.

Hartford Athletic Portuguese Night Soccer Game June 5

The Portuguese Club of Hartford and Hartford Athletic will host Portuguese Heritage Night on Saturday, June 5, at 7 pm at Dillon Stadium. Bring your jerseys, flags, scarves and Portuguese Força to cheer on the Boys in Green as they take on the NY Red Bulls II. A portion of each ticket purchased through the group link will go to benefit the Portuguese Club of Hartford. Please note that ONLY purchases made through the group link <https://fevo.me/2021haportuguese-night> will go to benefit the club.

Yoga Sessions at City Parks

Yoga in Our City is starting up again! Mondays and Wednesdays in Bushnell Park 5:30 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Elizabeth Park 5:30 PM, Saturdays in Pope Park 10 AM, and Sundays in Colt Park 10 AM. Sessions are free. Come prepared for the weather with items such as sunblock, water, and layered clothing. Instruction in Spanish at both Bushnell and Pope Park sessions.

Father's Day Bike Ride in Keney Park

Pastor A.J. Johnson, the Friends of Keney Park and BiCi Co. Community Bike Shop - Center for Latino Progress are looking for 100 fathers to join the a Capitol City Father's Day bike ride in Hartford's hidden treasure, Keney Park. The event will be held on Father's Day, Saturday, June 19, from 8:30am-10:30am and will start and end at the Woodland Street entrance to the park. There will be a very short mini-ride with the little ones, followed by a 4-5 mile out-and-back ride in Keney Park. The park has a network of multi-use trails and carriage roads that are perfect for car-free riding and walking. To register, go to: centerlatino.wufoo.com/forms/sat-june-19-keney-park-fathers-and-family-ride. For more information, contact: Pastor

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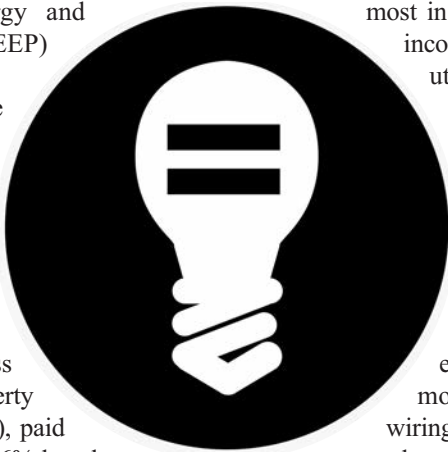
BY TOM SWARR

Are you struggling with overdue energy bills? Are you unable to find help or access utility programs that could reduce your bills? If you answered yes, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) wants to hear from you.

DEEP is conducting Equitable Energy Efficiency (E3) proceedings to reduce energy burdens on low-and moderate-income households. Energy burden is defined as energy costs greater than 6% of a household’s gross income. In 2021, CT households earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level (\$53,000 for a family of 4), paid an average of \$2,279 above the 6% benchmark. This energy burden impacted just over 84,000 households in Hartford County alone.

The E3 proceedings are intended to improve the

identification of underserved communities, increase inclusion and participation in those communities, and ensure resources are directed to those who are most in need. Many low-and moderate-income families do not participate in utility programs for which they are eligible. This may be simply because they are not aware of the programs or that eligibility requirements and the required documentation impose a barrier to accessing the benefits. Another stumbling block in older urban homes is the presence of health barriers, such as mold, asbestos, knob and tube wiring, or vermiculite insulation that must be remediated before implementing energy efficiency improvements.



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Winners of Hartford Creative Contest Honored

On Saturday, May 15, the winners of the annual Hartford Creative Contest were honored at a ceremony at Asylum Hill Congregational Church (AHCC) in Hartford. The contest was founded in 20215 by AHCC member Tiana Hercules. In addition to AHCC, the contest is supported by Mothers United Against Violence, the Mark Twain House & Museum and Beckett Law, LLC.

This year, students in grades 4-12 from 29 local schools were asked to create arts, essays and poems around one of three theses: Superheroes; Justice Heroes; and Living Through COVID-19.

The grand prize winner was Aulona Misini. Other winners were:

Grades 4-6

Haley Reis
Mirae Swan
Sophia Borer
Ashton Beckett
Cameron Thomas
Ahlaam Abdi Dahir
Eh Ku
Perla Rodriguez Paulino

Grades 7-9

Dorian Ciscel
Jayla Walker
Michkael Mckenzie
Fiona Berry
Vita Ntem-Mensah
Isys Belton
Jomelis Bruno
Yesmaely Roman

Grades 10-12

Ava King
Rhaili Em Lowe
Gianye Merridith
Joshua Wilson
Evelyn Whitley
Zayan Torres
Mitias Peña
Luis Thomas



Hartford Creative Contest grand prize winner Aulona Misini reads her winning essay while Diane Natrass, one of the judges in the contest, displays her artwork. (Hart photo)

RECYCLING...Hartford, We Have A Problem!

BY DONNA SWARR

There have been many articles published in the *Hartford News* over the past two years about the solid waste problem. The city has put out a public service announcement asking people to do a better job of sorting their recycling to prevent contamination. The recycling standards have changed over the past year, and many people missed the notification. First, do not put trash in the recycling bin. When the recycling bin includes trash, there’s no way to sort it. It all goes into the trash for which we pay a fee per thousand pounds to MIRA. And there is another cost. When the “recycle” is rejected, it has to be collected by DPW and

transported to the trash plant. Connecticut has a universal list of what belongs in your recycling bin and what doesn’t. To read it, go to <https://www.recyclect.com/>. There’s an app as well: RecycleCT Wizard. All items must be empty, and rinsed thoroughly clean. Do not shred or put unopened or expired cans in the recycle bin. And don’t box, tie, bag, or bundle the objects. Just place them in the blue bins. Janice Castle says “With your help, we can all work towards a cleaner, greener, healthier Hartford.” We’ll also not be wasting our precious tax dollars.

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Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues
Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Hartford Blooms 2021

Man plans...and God laughs. There was a plan to celebrate this Spring with a great series of Hartford Blooms tours all over the city. Along came a trick knee (or “water on the knee” as we called it when we were kids). Long story short, this correspondent is off to the races and should have a brand spanking new knee in early June. Knee replacements used to be an almost near-death experience and people would put them off until the pain was so bad that they could barely walk. Things are better now and we should be back in action soon.

That means most all of the Hartford Blooms Spring tours will be put off until the Fall, EXCEPT for one tour scheduled for Saturday, June 5. The reason we’re slipping this in before the aforementioned operation is that a major opportunity just might pop up that day. Details on the “Katharine Hepburn’s Neighborhood Tour” will be announced soon, after some legal work.

Touring Asylum Hill, the childhood home of the multi Oscar-winning actress, can be quite exciting, with new Victorian-style buildings, hidden gardens, whole streets transformed and magnificent churches. History is on every corner and as the Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA) marches on step by step, building by building, the changes in a once tough neighborhood are dramatic.

Once known as “Lord’s Hill,” Asylum Hill has certainly seen its ups and downs. Mainly developed from farms to homes in the late 1800s, it was primarily a middle-class (cops, firemen, shop-owners) area, but also had several residences

of the wealthy on streets like Woodland, Asylum and Farmington Avenue. Changes came in the years after World War II with the construction of large apartment buildings and commercial buildings. Then came the upheavals of the 1960s and the flight of the middle class from “The Hill” along with several businesses. By the early 1970s, vacant houses were evident on many streets in the neighborhood and things didn’t look too good.

Then came a “Back to the City” effort financed by banks, insurance companies, and the city. Home prices had plummeted, giving many working class and young middle class families a chance to own a home at very affordable prices and financed at affordable rates by several non-profit organizations.

Today, the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA) follows up on the early work of Asylum Hill Incorporated, block groups like the Sigourney Square Civic Association and other neighborhood groups. Corporate support, especially from The Hartford, bodes well for ongoing progress. Neighborhood churches like Asylum Hill Congregational Church and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph continue to make impressive investments and provide needed services to residents.

All this history and hopes for the future will be discussed on the Saturday, June 5, tour, which will run from 9 am - 12 noon, followed by a reception. To be part of it all, go to HartfordBlooms.net or call 860-296-6128 for details.

The complete line-up of Hartford Blooms Fall tours will be announced soon.

Motorcade to Salute Healthcare Workers June 5

While the Puerto Rican Parade won’t be held this year, the organization will host a special motorcade through Hartford to salute the efforts of healthcare and essential workers during the pandemic.

CICD Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. Hartford Chapter’s “El Chinchorro Caravan & Music” will start from Pope Park at 11 am on Saturday, June 5. After leaving the park, the caravan, which will include elaborately decorated floats, will cruise down Hillside Avenue, New Britain Avenue, Broad Street, Maple Avenue Franklin Avenue, Wethersfield Avenue and Park Street before ending back at Pope Park. The event will be televised live on channel 8 starting at 11:30 am.

Following the motorcade CIDC will host live music at Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street, from 2pm to 8pm. Performers will

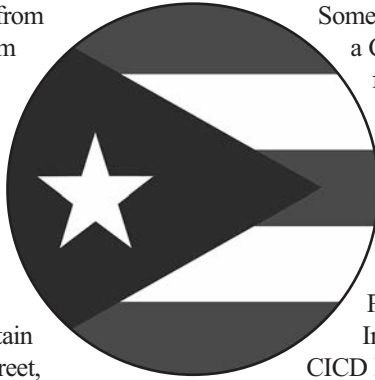
incude Carlos Juan “El Lunatico” y su Grupo Tipico, Dennis y su Grupo Swing, Chocoband Galarza and HipHop Jibarito

A Chinchorro is when a group of people go to a small kiosk, restaurant, or bar everyone hangs out at to eat, drink, dance and have fun with family and friends.

Some of The foods from a Chinchorro are the famous alcapurrias, empanadillas, relleño de papa, bacalaos, and others types of entrees from the gastronomy of Puerto Rico.

In addition to the CICD Puerto Rican

Parade, the event is being supported by Tito's Handmade Vodka, Global Events, Goya Foods, CT en Vivo, Greater Hartford Arts Council, Bank of America, Ensworth Charitable Foundation, City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, Summer in the City, Americas Food Basket and Dressler Law.



Goodbye *Hartford Courant*: It Was Good to Know Ya

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

The *Hartford Courant*, America’s oldest continuously published newspaper, was sold to a hedge fund this week known for slashing staff. It will continue to publish but only as a shell of its current self. Employees are the likely victims as well as its readers, you and me. I may allow my subscription to end since hedge fund ownership usually means less local reporting and investigative journalism.

The first and biggest mistake of selling the newspaper occurred in 1979 when the employee-owned newspaper sold out to Times Mirror. That was short-sighted of them but the marketplace inevitably determines ownership of everything. Through a succession of ownership, the Alden Global Capital hedge fund has acquired the Tribune Publishing Company. For a brief moment, a Maryland hotel magnate teamed with an old Swiss billionaire in an effort to purchase the package of newspapers. They were on record of wanting to offer the *Hartford Courant* to local buyers. A writer at the newspaper told me she was hoping for this outcome. It was a long shot. An offer was made. But they failed.

The *Hartford Courant* was the first job for me during my last months of high school and into college. I worked in the mailing room stacking papers. It was noisy, dusty, monotonous, and the clock was my only friend as it ticked away the minutes and hours all night long till the end of the shift. This was a brief interlude of employment.

A few years ago, the *Courant* was experimenting with insert drops flung at our houses. Often, homeowners didn’t pick up the unrequested litter and I asked circulation department to end the practice. They didn’t until I wrote a letter to the publisher, Andrew Julien, demanding that he end the practice because it was littering our neighborhoods. I explained that if the practice didn’t end, that I would gather up this litter and drive to the *Hartford Courant* on Broad Street and fling the trash at their front door and then call a press conference. They ended the drops and sent the inserts thereafter through the mail as they should have. A little threat can be a great motivator.

At one time, the *Hartford Courant* offered public comments on their online version. The political stories received the most comments. There was a small but dedicated group of lefties and I was one of them. We battled who I highly suspected were old white guys on the right. I could have been wrong. But I don’t think so. We all were getting banned for our ruckus comments then reinstated after complaining to the publisher. I even wrote one of my famous notes to the longtime publisher, Andrew Julien, demanding to be unbanned and accusing him of violating my 1st amendment rights to speak freely. Ha. Even though it was private property and I had no “rights,” I was unbanned.

I sensed around 2014 that these comment threads were about to end. I had developed a friendship with one of my compatriots in comments and I asked to talk with him in real life. He gave me hints on how to find him online. I met him and became part time friends. Shortly after I established contact with Dennis Kaplan, the *Hartford Courant* terminated the comments section. I guess they determined that their clickbaits and the resultant token increase in revenue wasn’t worth the aggravation we were causing the newspaper.

And so I had the opportunity to invite Dennis and his wife over the house for coffee once since his wife used to have her hair done on Maple Avenue. Dennis was a professor of English in Springfield and also a writer. He had a devastatingly evil sense of humor; much worse and more effective than mine. Naturally I invited him to collaborate with me on some of the satires in my book, “Donald’s Vanity Tantrums” — a book that he advised me not to publish because he felt that Trump was beyond any ability to trash in humor. But I persevered.

In January, 2020, he emailed me to explain that he had inoperable lung cancer. By May after sending him my last email, his wife responded that Dennis had passed. And so I dedicated my book to him. I wouldn’t have met him without the good comments section of the *Hartford Courant*, once upon a time.

(Hart photo)

Poetry for a Cause

On Sunday, May 23, Hartford’s L.I.T. (*Literary Intergrated Trailblazers*) held *Poetry for a Cause* at the Free Center, 460 New Britain Avenue (former Goodwin Library). In addition to poetry readings from several local authors, the event included information booths on local organizations. Shown above are Hartford L.I.T. members Nzima Hutchings, LaShawn Middleton, Alphonso McGriff III and T’challa Williams. For more information on the group, email hartsfordslit@gmail.com. (*Hart photo*)



Metzner Early Learning Center Expanded and Renovated

On Saturday, May 22, the Metzner Early Learning Center on Franklin Avenue celebrated its grand-reopening after a major renovation and expansion project. Capacity at the center has risen from about 25 to over 70. Kim Oliver (fourth from left), Director of the City of Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation cut the ribbon to officially open the center. Looking on are Shyleen Lopez, Early Learning Centers, Administrative Operational Manager; Mayor Luke Bronin; architect Hermann Cartes-Barrios, Lifecare Design Inc., and City Council Members Wildaliz Bermudez and Josh Mitchtom. The Metzner Recreation Center, which is located in the same building as the Early Learning Center, is also undergoing a major renovation and will open soon. (*Hart photo*)

FACE-TO-FACE

Something’s lost and nothing’s gained when city meetings are virtual

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

It’s been a long time coming. More than a year has passed since Hartford’s residents have been able to step up to the microphone and address the City Council at that body’s monthly public comment sessions. Ditto for the occasional public hearings. Council committee meetings, city commission meetings, and even the mayor’s limp “town halls” are all one-way streets; we can see them but they don’t see us. A disembodied voice on the phone just doesn’t carry the same impact as standing before elected officials. Eye contact is important, gestures have

COVID. I get that. But with the state relaxing the rules for public presence at bars, restaurants, theaters, and sporting events, isn’t it about time for the city to follow suit? Think of it this way: The City Council is our “team” and we are its “fans”. The fans are the energizer that spurs on the team to give the game their all. We let them know how they’re doing by our cheers and boos. Without fans, their performance is likely to be lackluster. There are options for safely re-opening the stately second-floor doors to council chambers. Seating can easily be socially-distanced, which limits capacity but still allows public presence. Admission to meetings could be by showing proof of being fully vaccinated (the card). And there’s

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(Hart photo)



City Council meeting in better days.

meaning, and the presence and support of fellow citizens bolsters unity and community spirit. Plus we can tell if you’re paying attention--and wearing pants. Being connected is important when it comes down to municipal decisions that will affect those who live here, either positively or negatively, and that connection is diluted when such meetings take on the character of an AM radio call-in show.

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Keney Park Bound

BiCiCo and the Center for Latino Progress (CFLP) hosted an early morning bike ride on Saturday, May 22, from its offices on Park Street all the way to the Keney Park entrance on the Windsor-Hartford town line and then back through Hartford’s North End, Asylum Hill, Downtown and Frog Hollow neighborhoods. Shown above is CFLP Executive Director Yanil Teron followed by former City Councilman Calixto Torres. (Hart photo)

HSO’s Spring Splash Concerts

Hartford Symphony Orchestra (HSO) will hold two more “Spring Splash” along the Hartford-East Hartford riverfront.

Wednesday, June 2, 12-1 pm; Great River Park, East Hartford

Pack a lunch and head across the river to say cello, from the other side, during this free lunchtime concert from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra’s A Piacere Quartet featuring Jaroslaw Lis (violin), Deborah Tyler (violin), Patricia Daly Vance (viola) and Jia Cao (cello). This concert is

free, but registration is required. Register at <http://bit.ly/hsoapiacere>

Wednesday, June 9, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Riverside Park, Hartford

Listen to a performance from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra’s Wind Quintet, featuring Barbara Hopkins (flute), Marilyn Krentzman (oboe), Curt Blood (clarinet), Yeh-Chi Wang (bassoon) and Barbara Hill (horn). This concert is free, but registration is required. Register at <http://bit.ly/hsowindquartet>.

St. Francis Releases Implementation Plan To Reduce Child Abuse And Maltreatment

The Greater Hartford Family Advocacy Center (GHFAC) at Saint Francis Hospital recently released its implementation plan for the Child Safety Forward initiative funded by the Department of Justice aimed at reducing child injury and fatality from abuse and neglect.

“While the rate of child maltreatment for Connecticut is comparable to that observed nationally, the rate for Hartford and other urban areas in our state tends to be much higher (up to double the national rate),” noted Regina Dyton, program manager for Saint Francis Hospital and project director for Child Safety Forward in Hartford. “While local and state agencies are committed to addressing child safety, a well-documented challenge is the struggle to share information between agencies regarding detection, reporting and intervention, as well as to gain the support of community members in their efforts. Thus, the Child Safety Forward Project seeks to improve sharing across agencies and to empower community members to ally with agencies.”

GHFAC’s implementation plan for Child Safety Forward includes the establishment of a stakeholder group, composed of a majority of community-based organizations and community leaders, who will work with leadership of State and municipal agencies, elected officials, medical and other service providers to improve systems and practices to support healthy families and children. This model is unique among the demonstration sites because of the integration of decision-making community voices with agencies such as CPS, law enforcement, the courts, etc. As part of their sustainability plan, St. Francis Hospital has committed to support the project for ten years with a focus on establishing a more standardized data collection and analysis system; improving cooperation between community members and agencies responsible for child protection; and, ultimately, significantly decreasing repeated child maltreatment and injury.

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Pratt Street Summer Music Series Full June and July Line-up

The Hartford Business Improvement District has announced the full June and July line-up for its Pratt Street Summer Music Series. The live concerts will be held on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford. Thursday and Friday concerts start at 6pm; Saturday’s performances begin at 12 noon.

- June 3.....Frank Critelli
- June 4.....Kierstin Sieser
- June 5.....Desiree Camille
- June 10.....Sketch Tha Cataclysm
- June 11.....Anne Gogh
- June 12.....Canyon.
- June 17.....An Historic
- June 18.....Orice Jenkins



- June 19.....Tang Sauce
- June 24.....Heather McIarney
- June 25.....Stefanie Clark Harris
- June 26.....Sarah Golley
- July 1.....Ponybird
- July 2.....Becky Kessler
- July 3.....Daphne Lee Martin
- July 8.....Hannah's Field

- July 9.....Christopher Cavaliere
- July 10.....Lys Guillom
- July 15.....The Penniless Wild
- July 16.....Miles Elliot Experience
- July 17.....Jessie Scott
- July 22.....Nekita Waller
- July 23.....Simone Marie
- July 24.....Olive Tiger
- July 29.....Arlenewow!
- July 30.....Chad Browne-Springer
- July 31.....Shandy Lawson

In case of rain, concerts will be rescheduled. The Pratt Street Music Series is made possible through a grant from The Richard P. Garmany Fund.

Wethersfield Avenue

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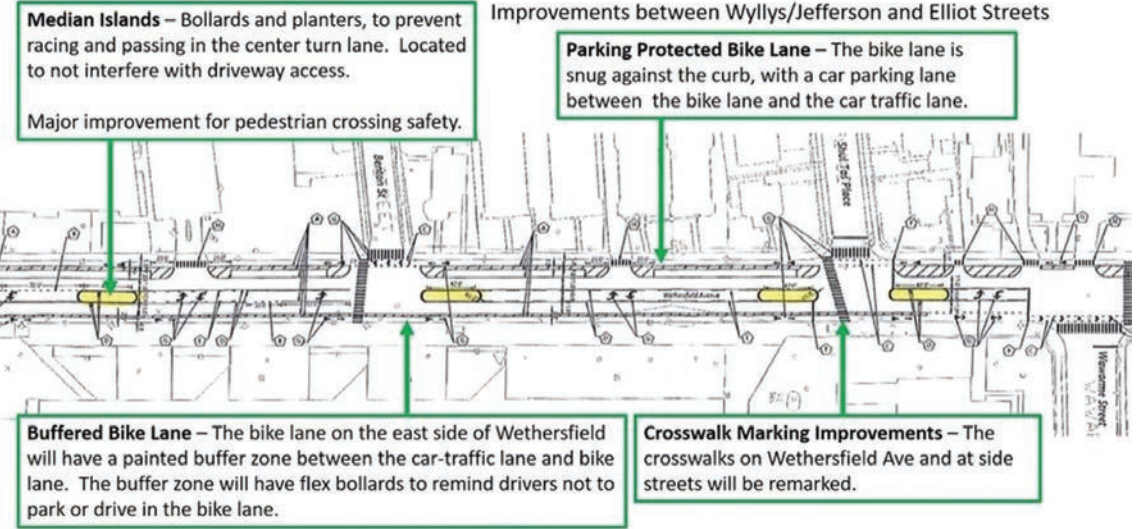
and the bicycle lane. Short posts will be placed in the buffers next to the bicycle lanes, the existing median on the road will be narrowed and outlined with short posts. And planters will be placed in the median areas, preventing motor vehicle operators from illegally using the center turn lane as

a passing lane. These measures will provide added protection for bicyclists and motorists, and also cause traffic to slow down.

The concrete planters being placed in the center lane will include plantings and maintenance by Knox Inc. Center islands are effective at separating oncoming traffic lanes and providing a safe

waiting area for pedestrian crossings. They’ve been proven to reduce head-on collisions by visually narrowing the driving lane. They also prevent high-speed passing and racing. The plan is to complete the project by the beginning of July. For further information, please call Hartford 311 by dialing (860) 757-9311.

Wethersfield Ave Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements



Riverfront Fitness Programs Start Next Week!

After a relatively quiet year due to the pandemic, Riverfront Recapture is swinging back into action this summer. The organization will be offering four weekly fitness programs at Mortensen Riverfront Plaza in

Downtown Hartford starting next month and running through the end of August. All classes are free, but if you would like to support Riverfront’s fitness program, the suggested donation is \$5. Proceeds will be used to help Riverfront to continue to offer free classes like these. Donate at the class, on venmo @riverfrontrecapture, or at <https://riverfront.org/donate/>

RiverBarre 6-7 pm, every Monday, June 7 - August 30, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza

Barre is a total-body-toning workout based on a combination of ballet movement, yoga alignment and Pilates core work. Free class taught by instructors from Hartford Sweat. Bring water and a yoga mat, and wear sneakers. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class to check-in.

WIP Into Shape 6-7 pm every Tuesday, June 1 – August 31, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza

Join WIP Fitness every Tuesday night on the plaza for free, motivating workouts. Their instructors will

show you how to build muscle in this anything but traditional boot-camp style class using bands, body weight, and the plaza itself. This class is accessible to all levels. Bring water (definitely) and a yoga mat (optional). Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class to check-in.



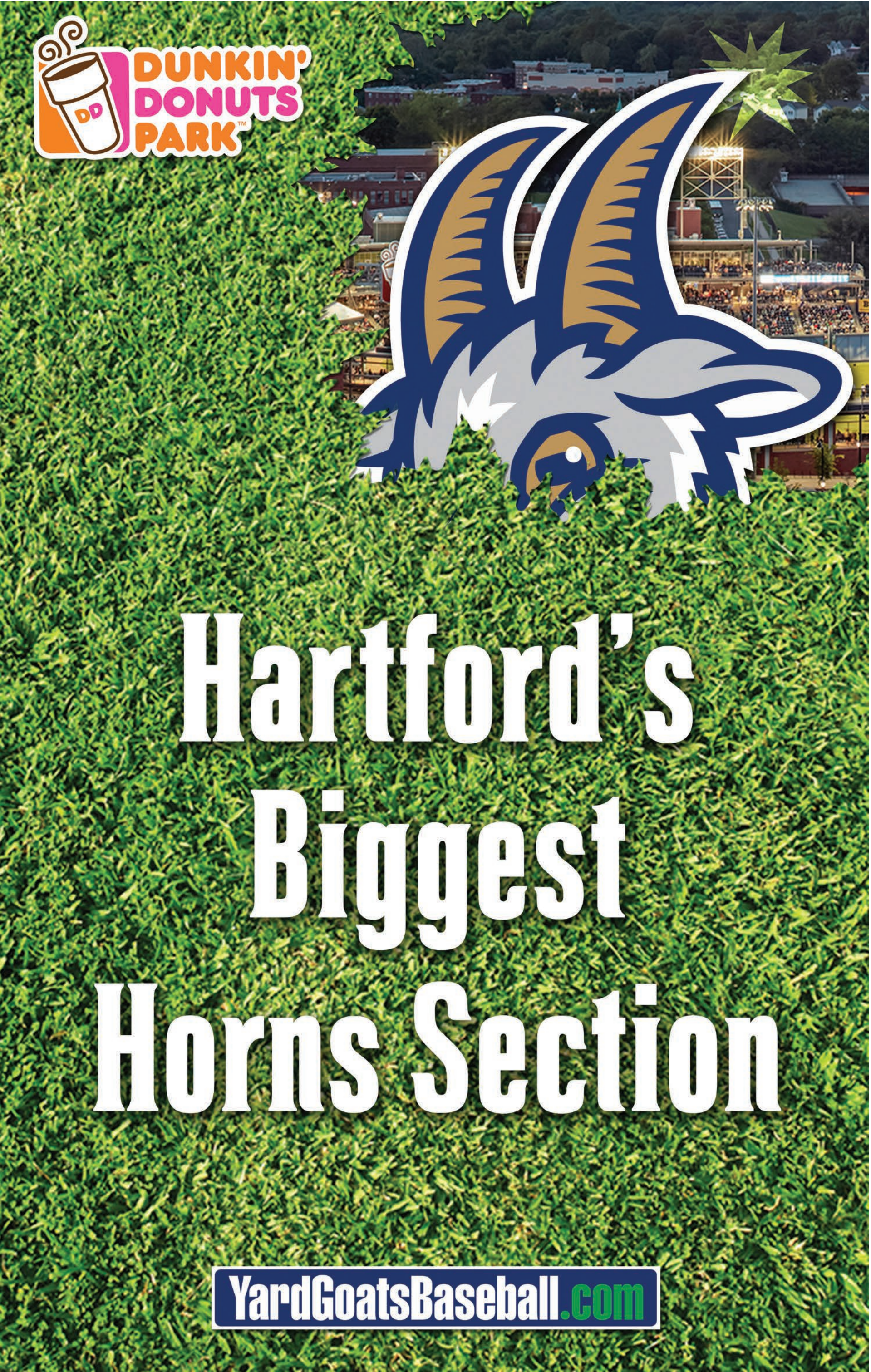
Yoga Flow on the River 6-7 pm every Wednesday, June 2 – August 25, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza

Free yoga classes taught by instructors from Hartford Sweat. The classes are taught in a Vinyasa style flow of yoga postures suitable for any level of yoga experience. Held in the groves of trees on the plaza’s upper level. Please bring water and a yoga mat, and

arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class to check-in.

RiverZumba 6-7 pm every Thursday, June 3 – August 26, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza

Dance, dance, dance the day away in this one hour heart-pumping workout led by instructors from Hartford Sweat. This class will be held on the stage at lower Mortensen Riverfront Plaza. Please wear sneakers and bring water. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class to check-in.



Energy Equity

Continued from page 2

Community input would be particularly important to develop outreach plans for high- need or high-impact populations. These are typically the most difficult populations to reach. The COVID pandemic has further complicated outreach efforts, but hopes are as the virus recedes in-person events will again be possible. DEEP recognizes the challenge- Deputy Commissioner Vicki Hackett described it as “building the plane in the sky as you’re flying to your destination.” Initial efforts will work through trusted frontline community organizations. The utilities are in the process of developing a community outreach

plan, which would provide resources to the community organizations, who would then conduct outreach at the municipal level. This approach faces two key questions. The first is: Who are the community organizations you would trust for information on how to reduce your energy bills or to help you navigate the utility programs? The second question: What would be the best way for this organization to engage you in education and outreach on how to reduce your energy burden? Many ideas are under consideration. Holding outreach sessions on weekends or evenings and with provided child-care to make it eas-

ier for working parents. Moving events around to churches, schools, food banks, or community centers to meet people where they are. Providing materials in multiple languages. Paid focus groups. Developing simple guidance on steps people can take to better manage their energy use. What would you find most helpful? What would motivate you to attend an outreach event on energy? Deputy Commissioner Hackett also noted that DEEP is taking a broad view of energy equity that seeks to ensure the benefits of a clean energy economy extend to currently underserved populations. Building retrofits can provide improved indoor air quality and health benefits along with energy savings. Electrification of school and city buses reduces air pollution that disproportionately affects poor communities of color. Home weatherization can create local jobs. Natalie Braswell has been brought on as Chief of Legal, Planning and Regulatory Affairs to coordinate agency programs for maximum impact. You can let DEEP know your thoughts on how to conduct a successful outreach effort at a Zoom public meeting being held Thursday, May 27th at 6:30 PM. To register, visit DEEP’s Equitable Energy Efficiency (E3) web page. Or you can submit comments at DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov until June 18,2021.

Charter Revision

Continued from page 1

Commission adviser/consultant Attorney Steven Mednick was also present, and City Council Executive Assistant David Grant made the hearing arrangements. The residents who spoke were focused on several concerns, but the most-mentioned was that of mayoral appointments, in particular that leader’s ability to select and appoint five of the nine members of the Hartford Board of Education, thus giving the appointees a 5-4 voting edge over the elected. A majority of those who spoke on this issue were very concerned about ongoing problems within the school system, and were in favor of returning to an all-elected BOE. Videographer and former mayoral candidate J Stan McCauley proposed a 6-3 majority of the elected, and added that “Hartford is a one-party town”, and that both the city council and the BOE owe a debt of office to the mayor. He was also in favor of staggered elections where- in the mayoral election would be held in the same year as the presidential elections, which may increase voter participation. The second most mentioned idea was a change in the council structure, adding more members that include one candidate voted in from each of the city’s six assembly districts. Resident Gannon Long elaborated

on this: “We need to have more neighborhood representation”, and proposed a full-time city council with a more professional staff. The Hartford Police Department and its functions and responsibilities to the public is always a hot topic among city residents. One idea put forth at the hearing was to have elected police commissioners as is done in many other cities who would oversee HPD and the mayor-appointed Chief of Police. One of the most captivating speakers was Naiyah McGlamery, age 16. She praised the public hearing but added that the commission needed to implement community information sessions, and got a lot of attention when she suggested that the voting age for municipal elections be lowered to 16. Her final comment was “Get rid of the ‘strong mayor’ system”, which has also been a topic of debate by city residents for several years. As Gannon Long stated, charter revision is about “hopes and dreams and what we all want for the city”. To that end, the Charter Revision Commission will hold more public hearings throughout the year. Those who’d like to address the commission at one of these sessions should contact David Grant in order to be included in email notifications of upcoming hearings. Email david.grant@hartford.gov, or call 860-757-9738.

City Council Meetings

Continued from page 3

that building-long two-sided corridor outside the room where speakers can line up at 6-foot intervals and then enter the room and take the mic when their names are called. Even during the best of times, grabbing the councilors’ attention hasn’t always been easy. We’ve seen them looking down at their phones, having side conversations, and noticed the frequent blank stares. The current council also decided early on that they would no longer respond to speakers, or

ask them any follow-up questions seeking clarification. They’ve become even more complacent during the past year, and I’m pretty sure they’ll try to do whatever they can to maintain the status quo and keep us at a distance—perhaps even attempting to enact a rules change that would make virtual public meetings the new normal. No way. If we can now drink at our favorite watering hole, applaud at a theater performance, and catch a pop fly in the cheap seats, we can sure as hell safely open up city hall and let the people be seen and heard.

St. Francis Child Safety Plan

Continued from page 4

The Child Safety Forward initiative was launched in October 2019 by the Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime, and will provide \$750,000 over three years to each of the five sites. The sites are receiving support from a broad range of technical assistance providers to develop and execute implementation plans to address child maltreatment injuries and fatalities. Implementation plans were developed utilizing the following key elements to inform the approach:

1. Each site conducted a retrospective review of at least five years of fatality review data to identify children most at risk.
2. Each site conducted a community needs assessment to identify areas of opportunity for improved services and response.
3. Each site formed a collaborative body of stakeholders and partners to guide the work.
4. The sites used a developmental

evaluation approach and created a theory of change to illustrate goals and strategies to achieve them.

5. All sites reviewed all goals through an equity and diversity lens.
6. The sites ensured the input of individuals with lived experience as well as community voices.
7. Each site is developing and executing sustainability plans to ensure the effort’s long-term success.

In addition to the Greater Hartford Family Advocacy Center (GHFAC), the other sites include: Cook County Health in Illinois; Indiana Department of Health; St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut; Sacramento County CA’s Child Abuse Prevention Council; and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The technical assistance team is led by Within Our Reach and the Change in Mind Institute at the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities.



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This is to give notice that I,
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151 NEW PARK AVE., UNIT 14
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Have filed an application placarded 05/13/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a GROCERY BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at
1637 PARK ST.
HARTFORD, CT 06106-2133

The business will be owned by:
TOWN MARKET, LLC

Entertainment will consist of:
None

Objections must be filed by:
06-24-2021

LUCIANA M. MUNOZ

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Mary Meade, AKA Mary Savilla Meade (21-00481)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Hiram R. Miranda
c/o Sydney T Schulman
Schulman & Associates
10 Grand Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Efrain Diaz (21-00427)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Maria C. Diaz
c/o Peter F Odium,
Bayer, Odium & Hyde, LLC,
250 Main Street,
Hartford, CT 06106

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Elizabeth Ventura, AKA Elizabeth China Ventura (21-00217)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 5, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jose L. Ventura
14 E. Maple Street
Manchester, CT 06040

News Briefs

Continued from page 1

AJ Johnson at 860-205-1280 or Tony Cherolis at 860-269-0004.

MARG Monthly Meeting June 10

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 10, at 6 pm in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Mayor Luke Bronin and a representative from the Hartford Parking Authority will be the main speakers. Those attending the meeting must wear masks and practice social distancing. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

Food Drive June 12

A food drive will be held at the Unitarian Society of Hartford Church, 50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford, on Saturday, June 12 from 10 am – 2 pm. Drop off will be drive thru and socially distant so you can pull up, drop your food donations in the designated areas and volunteers will move it when you are back at a safe distance.

Keney Park Celebration June 19

Advocacy to Legacy, Inc. and the Friends of Keney Park will host

“Celebrating Keney Park - Jewel of the City” on Saturday, June 19, from 10 am – 2 pm. The event, which will be held in the area of the park near the Woodland Street entrance, will include fishing, arts and crafts, cricket clinic, bicycle giveaway and safety clinic, disk golf clinic, trail walking, food, nutrition and gardening and more. Health & Wellness organizations will be on hand to share information and offer services. We will also have give aways for attendees. For more information call, 860-930-2508, or email at advocacy2legacy@gmail.com. Additional support provided by HartfordNext and the City of Hartford.

Bicycle Safety Courses

BiCiCo will be offering bicycle safety courses at several spots throughout the city at the end of June. Courses are free and will run from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, and we'll be there to set up at 9:00 am. To sign up for a course, go to: <https://centerlatino.wufoo.com/forms/bikelife-hartford-2021-registration-form/>

- Monday, June 21st, 95 Park Street, 3rd Floor Community Room

- Tuesday, June 22nd, Metzner Rec Center, 680 Franklin Avenue
- Wednesday, June 23rd, Free Center, 460 New Britain Avenue
- Thursday, June 24th, Swift Factory, 10 Love Lane
- Friday, June 25th, Downtown Hartford Public Library, CCC Room, 500 Main St.

Participants who complete the course will be invited to a special BIKELIFE Festival from 12-4 pm on Saturday, June 26 in the Hudson Street/Ramon Quiros Park. Participants will be able to pick up their upcycled bike, lock, and lights at the event.

Riverfront Youth Rowing Clinics

Riverfront Recapture is offering two rowing clinics for youth this summer, June 28 - July 1 and July 26 - 29. If your child is new to rowing, our beginner clinics are a great way to try the sport and prepare for fall tryouts. If your child is already rowing, our intermediate clinics will improve their technique before the fall season begins. Registration is now open at <https://riverfront.org/youthclinic/>. Space is limited, so register today.

Two Downtown Tours for CT Trails Day

Bushnell Park Trees and Trinity Arch Tour: Saturday, June 5, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

This event will begin with an orientation at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch (a.k.a. Trinity Arch), continue with a stroll through Bushnell Park led by the state's former Urban Forester and Hartford's City Forester to learn about some of Bushnell Park's amazing collection of diverse and historic trees, and end with a tour of the Arch itself culminating with a walk up into the Arch to its summit to enjoy 360-degree views of Hartford. Leader(s): Pre-registration is REQUIRED, Registration: <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/node/add/ct-trails-day-registration>. This tour will be held rain or shine.

Discovering Historic Main Street, Butler-McCook House & Garden: Sunday, June 6, 10 am – 12 pm



Easy 1.5 mile walking tour on the sidewalks of Hartford's historic Main Street from the Butler-McCook House & Garden to the G. Fox Building. Learn how the city has evolved by viewing and discussing some of Main Street's significant structures: City Hall, the

Wadsworth Atheneum, the Travelers Tower, the Old State House, Center Church, and the Ancient Burying Ground. Heavy rain cancels. Part of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's CT Trails Day. Free. Registration required; same-day registration will be allowed only if the event has not reached capacity. Please arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled start time to check in. Heavy rain cancels. In order to protect the health of our staff, visitors, and community, all visitors must wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Registration: <https://mccook-trails-day-walk-2021.eventbrite.com>

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Room For Rent
Rooms for rent in Hartford's West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

For Rent
Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford
This is a spacious 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975-\$850 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

Real Estate
Looking to connect with anyone interested in real estate and helping people. No money needed, no credit needed, good credit but no money, okay, coming into money, okay. Also seeking home improvement workers. Call Chris at 860-525-4554, CT area.

Rooms for Rent East Hartford
Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

Rooms for Rent in Vintage Historic Building in Downtown Hartford
Small sleeping rooms. Large windows. Clean, quiet and safe. Located on Asylum Street in Downtown Hartford. On busline. References required. \$150-\$165 weekly. Call 860-985-7999. Text or leave message if no answer.

Church Space for Rent
Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor's office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

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El Informativo Latino

Taza de positividad del COVID-19 de Connecticut permanece por debajo de 1 por ciento

La tasa de positividad de la prueba COVID-19 del estado se mantiene por debajo del 1% el lunes mientras otras métricas de COVID-19 continúan bajando, una tendencia positiva que el gobernador atribuyó a una alta tasa de vacunación.

De 42,774 nuevas pruebas reportadas el lunes, 386 dieron positivo, una tasa de positividad de prueba de .9%. Actualmente hay 127 personas hospitalizadas con el virus, 13 menos que el viernes. Se informaron siete nuevas muertes, lo que eleva el número de muertos a 8,219.

El gobernador Ned Lamont informó el lunes que más de 1.7 millones de personas han sido completamente vacunadas en el estado.

Lamont también dijo el lunes que el estado continuará enfocándose en los costos de atención médica.

Los fondos del American Rescue Plan ayudarán a reducir los costos de Access Health CT. Habrá primas más bajas disponibles para las personas que compren su propia cobertura.

Según el gobernador, las personas que ganen hasta \$ 19,000 o las familias de cuatro que ganen hasta \$ 40,000 pagarán primas de \$ 0 y tendrán deducibles de \$ 0. Las personas que ganan hasta \$ 51,000 o las familias de cuatro que ganan hasta \$ 106,000 deben ahorrar más de \$ 500 al mes.

El estado siempre está buscando legislación para reducir los costos de los medicamentos recetados y cómo abordar las disparidades en la salud. Algunas de esas ideas de enfoque incluyen:

- Visitas domiciliarias universales
- Trabajadores comunitarios de la salud
- Salud mental y conductual
- Reducir los embarazos no deseados
- Apoyo a los departamentos de salud locales
- Cuidado infantil de calidad
- Sistemas de datos mejorados.

By Iris Rodriguez



Good Luck Erika!

On Friday, May 14, the City of Hartford issued a proclamation and its best wishes to Erika Porras (center), who will be representing Hartford in the Miss Connecticut USA Pageant, June 5-6, at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott. To the left of Erika is her father, Luis Porras; to her right are Mayor Luke Bronin and her mother, Lillian Ruiz. The ceremony was held at Hartford City Hall. (Hart photo)

CT confirma al menos 18 casos de aparente problemas cardíacos en jóvenes después de vacunarse contra el Covid-19

Al menos 18 adolescentes y adultos jóvenes en Connecticut han mostrado síntomas de problemas cardíacos después de recibir la vacuna COVID-19, dijo el lunes la comisionada de salud designada, la Dra. Deirdre Gifford.

Gifford dijo que todos menos uno de los adultos jóvenes hospitalizados por signos de problemas cardíacos han sido dados de alta. Cuatro de esos jóvenes residentes fueron hospitalizados en Yale New Haven Health y tres en Connecticut Children's.

"Todos los casos que se nos informaron fueron hospitalizados, la gran mayoría durante un par de días", dijo Gifford en la conferencia de prensa habitual del gobernador sobre el COVID-19 el lunes. "Una persona que conocemos todavía está hospitalizada. Las otras 17 han sido enviadas a casa y están bien".

Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades dicen que están investigando después de que una pequeña cantidad de adolescentes y adultos jóvenes informaron tener problemas cardíacos después de haber sido vacunados contra el COVID-19.

Un comité de seguridad de los CDC publicó un aviso la semana pasada para alertar a los médicos sobre la "miocarditis" entre los receptores de vacunas más jóvenes después de que surgieran "relativamente pocos" casos del inusual síntoma cardíaco.

La secretaria de prensa de la Casa Blanca, Jen Psaki, dijo el lunes durante una rueda de prensa

que el presidente Joe Biden ha sido informado de los casos denunciados y que la administración seguirá aconsejando a los jóvenes que se vacunen.

"Nuestros expertos en salud y médicos aún continúan transmitiendo que es el paso correcto que los niños de 12 a 15 años se vacunen, que estos son casos limitados y que, obviamente, los riesgos de contraer COVID son ciertamente significativos incluso para personas de esa edad", dijo Psaki.

Los funcionarios de salud dicen que los casos reportados parecen ser leves y generalmente comienzan dentro de los cuatro días posteriores a la segunda dosis de las vacunas Pfizer y Moderna.

Los CDC aún deben determinar si las vacunas fueron la causa de la afección cardíaca informada.

"Lo que es importante saber y reconocer es que las tasas de miocarditis que estamos viendo no son más altas de lo que experimentaríamos normalmente", Dr. Ted O'Connell le dijo a NBC San Diego. "Entonces, no sabemos si está asociado con la vacuna o no".

¿Cuáles son los síntomas de la miocarditis?

En casos leves de miocarditis, los síntomas comunes incluyen dolor de pecho y dificultad para respirar.

En casos más graves, los síntomas pueden incluir ritmos cardíacos rápidos o anormales, dificultad para respirar durante el descanso o la actividad física, fatiga y retención de líquidos con hinchazón de las extremidades.

Los expertos médicos de Mayo Clinic dicen que la miocarditis puede ser fatal si no se trata de inmediato. En casos graves, pueden ocurrir insuficiencia cardíaca, ataque cardíaco, accidente cerebrovascular y muerte cardíaca súbita.

¿Cuáles son los signos de miocarditis en los niños?

Cuando los niños desarrollan miocarditis, algunos signos y síntomas pueden incluir fiebre, desmayos, dificultad para respirar, respiración rápida y ritmos cardíacos rápidos o anormales.

Los expertos en salud instan tanto a los niños como a los adultos que puedan estar experimentando cualquiera de estos síntomas a que busquen atención médica de inmediato.

¿Cómo se puede tratar la miocarditis?

En muchos casos de miocarditis, la enfermedad cardíaca inflamatoria puede mejorar por sí sola.

Los médicos de Mayo Clinic dicen que el tratamiento se centra en la causa de la afección y los síntomas, como insuficiencia cardíaca y dificultad para respirar.

Los médicos recomiendan descansar mucho y tomar medicamentos para ayudar a combatir la infección. Los expertos dicen que, aunque hay medicamentos antivirales disponibles, no se ha demostrado que sean efectivos en el tratamiento de la mayoría de los casos de afecciones cardíacas.

By Iris Rodriguez



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